

STATE ROUTE 16: TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE PROJECT

Tacoma Narrows Bridge Project
Nighttime Construction Noise
Quarterly Report: January – March 2006

Submitted on April 14, 2006 to:
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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Tacoma Narrows Constructors have been issued a noise variance by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The variance was issued for noise levels expected to result from construction work between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in conjunction with the construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The variance was issued with several conditions, including that WSDOT provide quarterly reports to the Health Department on activities relevant to the variance.

This is the thirteenth quarterly report and covers the period including January through March 2006. The following areas are addressed in this report:

- Overview of Nighttime Construction Activities
- Communication Activities
- Upcoming Activities
- Attachments
 1. Nighttime construction activities log

OVERVIEW OF NIGHTTIME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES : JANUARY – MARCH '06

Land-based construction activities took place on the project site between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a total of three (3) nights during the period including January, February, and March 2006. This work involved traffic barrier replacement at the east-bound Jackson Avenue off-ramp, and removal of existing bridge Tacoma tower strut formwork, both requiring temporary east and west-bound left lane closures in the vicinity of the work along the SR16 mainline during nighttime hours for safety and access purposes.

Cable spinning construction activities took place at the Tacoma and Gig Harbor anchorages and over the Narrows on the new bridge on a total of seventy-four (74) nights.

In total there were seventy-seven (77) days during which nighttime construction activities took place during this last quarterly reporting period. During this period, no complaints were received by WSDOT about construction noise from the project that occurred during nighttime hours.

Specific descriptions of the type, location, time, and equipment used for this work are provided in Attachment 1.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

> INFORMATION & HOT LINE

A telephone information and "hotline" continues to be operational providing information about upcoming nighttime construction activities. It also provides residents an opportunity to communicate at any time of day with a live person about questions and/or concerns relating to the project nighttime construction activities and noise. This service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The phone number is 253-620-4440.

Nighttime construction activity information is provided in a recorded message by a dedicated staff person, and updated, as necessary, to provide the most current information. Messages can also be left on the information line concerning the nighttime construction activities and these messages will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

Residents can also communicate directly with a person who can provide relevant information about project nighttime construction activities, accept comments, and if appropriate, directly contact WSDOT project staff. When project construction activities are taking place, the person staffing the "hot line" is able to immediately contact WSDOT project staff and to relay comments/complaints received. If requested by the caller, WSDOT project staff will return the call as soon as feasible.

> WEBSITE

To maximize public access to timely information about nighttime construction activities, a section of the project's web site is dedicated to providing quick, easy access to information concerning nighttime construction activities. Information on this web site is updated weekly or daily to provide the most current information.

Comments and concerns about the nighttime construction activities can be submitted to project staff through the web site and will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

> POSTAL CARRIER ROUTE MAILINGS

On November 2, 2005, the Tacoma-Pierce County Noise Control Hearings Board granted extension to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project's Conditional Noise Variance through December 31, 2008 or completion of the bridge construction project, whichever occurs sooner. The Board's decision also amended the "Communication Plan for Nighttime Construction Noise" to require that information sheets ("Community Fliers"), previously mailed monthly to residences and businesses along the project corridor, now will be prepared and mailed "three times per year and as needed."

The TNB Project intends to prepare and mail an information flier to the community in late April 2006, which will fully describe the planned nighttime construction work for summer 2006 (approximately May – August). The project intends to mail its' 2nd and 3rd fliers for the year in August and November of 2006, or more frequently as needed. Each information flier is mailed to approximately 4000 addresses.

COMPLAINT RESPONSE & RESOLUTION

During this quarter (January - March '06), WSDOT received no complaints about noise from the project occurring during nighttime hours.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

During the upcoming quarter, April - June '06, construction activities will continue throughout the project site along the SR 16 corridor from Jackson Avenue to the vicinity of 36th Street.

Cable spinning work activities at the anchorages and along the new bridge will continue from the Tacoma shoreline across to the Pierce County shoreline, spanning the new towers in preparation for deck erection. Cable spinning takes place six days per week with the work sites being staffed seven days per week. The spinning is conducted during double shifts, from 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to approximately 2:30 a.m. A third (graveyard) shift for cable adjustment may occur during nighttime hours after 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. Equipment used includes tower cranes, winches, and spinning wheels. The cable spinning is expected to be completed the end of April 2006, then crews will be compacting, binding, and installing suspenders.

Deck section delivery and lifting of the first deck section is scheduled to begin in June 2006.

While roadway work will take place on each side of the Narrows along the full length of the project corridor, the vast majority of this work will be conducted during daytime hours. The project's prevailing roadway construction strategy is to shift mainline SR 16 traffic onto temporary alignments that can be maintained for extended periods while most construction of new roadways takes place away from traffic. The relatively small amount of nighttime work required by this strategy is for construction of the "tie-ins" between the roadway configurations, the actual shifting of traffic lanes, and occasional short duration work requiring temporary lane closures for worker and public safety. Specific planned nighttime roadway work in summer 2006 includes installing final lifts of asphalt paving, roadway striping, signing installation, and an eastbound Jackson Avenue off-ramp closure.